



BIRCH PARK BEACH

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 480383
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33348-0383
<https://birchparkbeachhoa.org>

HOA ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Beach Community Center
3351 NE 33rd Ave,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308, USA

MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order:** Brian Donaldson, President, called the meeting to order.
- II. **Roll Call:** Brian Donaldson, President, called roll.
 - A. In attendance: Gustavo Sorgente, Kim Couto, Dean Myerow, Brian Donaldson, Sharon Tiberio, Jeffrey Scholes, Jacob Peart, and Joshua Bellus. It was determined that a quorum was present.
 - B. Not in attendance: Michael Goch.
- III. **Opening Comments:** Brian Donaldson, President. Thank you to attendees for being present. He announced the results of the 2025-2027 Board election and that a new Board is in place. He also provided a brief history of the HOA accomplishments since the reorganization and restoration of active participation in 2005.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Sharon Tiberio, Treasurer, provided a financial report for the HOA 2024-2025 fiscal year.

A. Member properties	105
B. Balance	\$37,928.86
C. Office Expenses	\$376.99
D. Council of FTL Civic Associations Dues	\$50.00
E. Hospitality (Annual Meeting, Air Show)	\$82.88
F. Total Expenses/Costs	\$509.87
- V. **City Commissioner Steven Glassman:** Commissioner Glassman noted that this was his third and final term. He introduced Ashley Cacicedo, his District Outreach Coordinator. He provided an update on several items.



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- A. AIA crosswalks:** Pre-construction public meetings are being held and coordinated by FDOT. There will be a new crosswalk between NE 14th Court and Park Tower.
- B. Sunrise Blvd. Bridge Construction:** Sunrise Bridge will be undergoing repairs in the near future and FDOT will be soliciting construction bids in the summer. There will be lane changes once the work commences but there will not be full closure of the bridge or the street.
- C. Fire Station #13:** The original construction company chosen to rebuild Fire Station #13 went out of business. The process of obtaining new bids will begin.
- D. Ocean Park Residences:** Buildings on the south side of Sunrise Boulevard across from Fire Station #13 were demolished to make way for new 1-3 bedroom luxury residences called Sereno Fort Lauderdale. It was scaled back from the original development plans. It will be a residential-only tower with no commercial or retail units. Construction is slated to take place from 2026-2028.
- E. Waterways:** A Chief Waterway Officer, Raquel Williams, started today. She competed with 6 other candidates and won the position, bringing experience as a former Assistant City Manager for Miami Beach. She will be available 24/7.
- F. Spring Break:** We had a successful Spring Break with a good police report. There was only one arrest and no injuries or deaths. The feedback from local businesses was positive. First responders acknowledged that the Spring Breakers were well behaved and polite with the exception of one incident involving 100 kids from Pompano Beach who congregated and obstructed traffic flow.
- G. A1A Medians:** The medians were updated in March and all the landscaping was replaced.
- H. Las Olas Blvd. Corridor Mobility Project:** The City is using a consultant team to coordinate with a design firm for mobility options (cars, bikes, pedestrians, etc.) to reformat the Las Olas area which includes 4 different districts.
- I. Homelessness:** Homelessness continues to be a city priority. The City has hired Chris Cooper as the new "Homelessness Czar" and he will manage multiple teams on a daily basis for improvement of services and shelters.
- J. Fix It app:** There has been an excellent response to the app. From January to March 2025 our neighborhood submitted 36 reports with 29 having been



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resolved. 3 cases are still open and one is in progress. Common issues are damaged trash carts, special bulk pickup requests, road hazards, water leaks, and vacation rental complaints.

- K. New City Hall:** The old City Hall was demolished due to water intrusion problems and a new structure is being rebuilt. The City is looking to hire an agent to navigate and oversee the build.
 - L. New Police Headquarters:** The new building is progressing nicely. The construction company hired multiple engineers to provide security and support safety. The City will continue to focus on improving Broward Boulevard since it is the entryway to downtown Fort Lauderdale.
 - M. Swimming Hall of Fame:** This amazing facility has multiple pools and dive towers for ongoing competitions and classes. The City is reviewing future site designs for a west side addition to include a public aquarium.
 - N. Event Fee Increase:** The City is not collecting enough revenue from events (like Tortuga) to offset the impact of wear and tear on the beach and streets. Determination is being made if a proposed increase is necessary to recover administrative and service costs.
 - O. State Legislative:** The proposed vacation rental bill did not pass, so local control of vacation rental ordinances remains in place. Our HOA was acknowledged to be one of the top Boards with best practices and resources to manage any related issues.
 - P. FDOT:** FDOT completed the turtle-friendly amber light installation.
 - Q. Beach Beautification:** Consideration is underway for using Guy Harvey to design aesthetic sea turtle nest coverage which may resemble “turtle cabanas” to shield them from nighttime artificial light. Additionally, the City is investigating options such as painting or wrapping lifeguard towers with artwork. Four of the 22 towers have already been completed and the goal is for all the lifeguard towers to be enhanced. The wave wall will require \$1.2 million to repair/replace the LED lights and fiber optic wires. Marina Village, with its 8 food kiosks, has become the new #1 destination in Fort Lauderdale.
- VI. **Fort Lauderdale Police Department:** Victoria Rodriguez, Community Support Unit Police Officer
- A.** Focus is on listening and serving our community.



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- B. Vehicle theft and burglary were the only issues in our neighborhood, due to the fact that vehicles are being left unlocked. There is a new flyer available “Lock it or Lose It”. It is recommended that homeowners purchase Faraday Bags (available on Amazon) to store their key fobs in to prevent criminals from unlocking cars even when the key fob is in the house or at a distance from their locked car. Kias and Hyundais are particularly susceptible to theft because they can be unlocked with a USB cable; free security upgrades are available.
- C. Panhandling is problematic but can only be addressed when a panhandler is obstructing the roadway, in a less than 3 foot wide median, or is trespassing. Please notify Officer Rodriguez or FLPD if this is observed.

VII. Fort Lauderdale Fire and Rescue:

A. Ocean Rescue Division: Chief Alex Bagwell and Lieutenant Glo Serrano.

The team handled 25 successful water rescues this year and 15,000 preventions. The team has new marine pagers which simultaneously dispatch both Ocean Rescue (including EMTs) and Police providing better support for the neighborhood and beachgoers.

B. Fire Rescue Team: Deputy Fire Chief Garrett Pingol and Fire Chief Stephen Gollen.

Deputy Chief Pingol oversees the operations division which includes 911 services, 450 field personnel, and 50 lifeguards. Additionally he oversees Fire Stations 54, 13 and 49. Each of the 3 firehouses have 15-17 firefighters staffed daily. 28 firefighters are dual certified as EMTs. There are 56,000 calls annually, 35,000-40,000 are rescues. Units are also dispatched for special events with no impact to neighborhoods. He implemented regional communications which means that the emergency unit closest to the call will respond regardless of the city. This improvement increases the ability for rapid response. Community Medical Healthcare offers aid and guidance for health problems although no firetruck or ambulance is dispatched. For individuals living alone, a Knox Box or a lockbox with an access code containing a home entrance door key accessible to emergency personnel is recommended.

- C. **Fire Station #13:** The original construction company went out of business while holding all design documents. Drawings are being requested with demolition possible in the fall. Construction bids will not be solicited until July 2026.

VIII. Closing Remarks: Brian Donaldson, President.



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A. Anniversary Celebration: Our HOA is celebrating the 100 year anniversary of our neighborhood being established in 1925. The Board is planning a neighborhood celebration proposed for Sunday February 1, 2026.

B. Air and Sea Show: Wristbands have not been provided by the promoter yet. We will schedule additional times to pick up Air Show parking passes.

IX. Adjourn

Submitted by Kimberly Couto, Secretary

Board Members, 2025 - 2026

14th Court: Gustavo Sorgente

15th Street: Kimberly Couto, *Secretary*

15th Court: Dean Myerow

16th Street: Brian Donaldson, *President*

16th Court: Sharon Tiberio, *Treasurer*

16th Place: Michael Goch

17th Street: Jeff Scholes, *Vice President and Website Chair*

17th Court: Jacob Peart

18th Street: Joshua Bellus